

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for discussing the present case with Applicants representative. As discussed, Applicants are enclosing a declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 swearing behind the 102(e) reference to remove it as prior art.

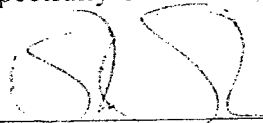
REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 (e):

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Soane et al. (US 2003/0013369). In response, Applicants enclose the above referenced declaration to remove the cited reference from consideration as prior art. Since Soane et al. is the only cited reference, Applicants contend that the present application is in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Claim 1 is allowable and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the foregoing Amendment and response, he is invited and urged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

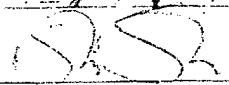


Steven L. Schmid
Registration No. 39.358

Steven Schmid
1257 Donald Street
Jacksonville, FL 32205
Tel: (904) 384-9983
Fax: (904) 807-5522

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Steven L. Schmid